

What is Passé Antérieur?

Worksheet

Passé antérieur marks a past action completed before another past action in literary contexts. Formed with the passé simple of avoir or être plus the past participle: j'eus écrit (I had written).

Questions

1. Passé antérieur is formed with...
 - A) present of avoir + past participle
 - B) passé simple of avoir/être + past participle
 - C) imparfait + past participle
 - D) future + past participle
2. Which conjunction typically precedes passé antérieur?
 - A) pour que
 - B) bien que
 - C) après que
 - D) à moins que
3. Register of passé antérieur?
 - A) very formal/literary
 - B) neutral/everyday
 - C) informal/slang
 - D) technical/scientific
4. Modern alternative to passé antérieur?
 - A) futur proche
 - B) plus-que-parfait
 - C) passé composé
 - D) imparfait
5. Translate: After he had finished his work, he left.
6. Dès que nous eûmes terminé, la fête a commencé.
7. Quand tu eus compris le problème, tu as appelé le professeur.
8. Define: What is passé antérieur?
9. Define: When is passé antérieur mainly used?
10. Define: How is passé antérieur formed?

Answer Key

1. B) passé simple of avoir/être + past participle — Passé antérieur = passé simple (eus, eut, eûmes...) + past participle.
2. C) après que — Après que is the classic trigger for passé antérieur in literary French.
3. A) very formal/literary — Passé antérieur is reserved for formal narratives and literature.
4. B) plus-que-parfait — In modern French, plus-que-parfait replaces passé antérieur in speech.
5. Après qu'il eut fini son travail, il est parti. Structure: après que + passé antérieur (eut fini) Same meaning as après avoir fini in modern French.
6. As soon as we had finished, the party started. Passé antérieur (eûmes terminé) shows completion before the past event.
7. When you had understood the problem, you called the teacher. Passé antérieur with quand marking prior completion.
8. A literary past perfect tense marking an action completed before another past action.
9. In formal written French, after après que, quand, dès que.
10. Passé simple of avoir/être + past participle (e.g., j'eus écrit).

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